

Introduced by Senator Kuehl

February 21, 2003

An act to add Sections 11495.50, 11496.60, and 11495.70 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to temporary assistance for needy families.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 664, as introduced, Kuehl. Temporary assistance for needy families: domestic violence.

Existing federal law provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program to eligible states. Under the program, a state is required to submit and have approved a state plan and to participate financially.

Existing law creates the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Fund in the State Treasury, into which are deposited federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds.

Existing law provides for the CalWORKs program under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families, through a combination of federal TANF program, state, and county funds.

Existing law contains specific requirements governing eligibility for CalWORKs cash assistance and services for victims of domestic violence.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to allocate an unspecified percentage of the marriage promotion moneys in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Fund to county welfare agencies for domestic violence services for CalWORKs recipients, as specified.

This bill would also require the department to allocate to the Office of Women's Health in the State Department of Health Services an unspecified percentage of the marriage promotion moneys in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Fund to develop and implement a public education campaign to raise awareness about the health consequences of domestic violence.

The bill would also require the State Department of Social Services to implement specified federal TANF provisions concerning victims of domestic violence.

The bill would also require the department to seek any federal approval of state plan amendments necessary to implement the bill, and would make implementation of the provisions for allocation of funds to the counties and the Office of Women's Health subject to the availability of federal TANF funds for marriage promotion purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the
2 following:

3 (1) When California enacted the California Work Opportunity
4 and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, in 1998, as part
5 of its welfare reform legislation, it adopted the Family Violence
6 Option, which is crucial for helping poor women to achieve
7 economic self-sufficiency by addressing the violence in their lives.
8 Despite its adoption of the Family Violence Option, the state did
9 not allocate specific dollars to fund domestic violence services for
10 CalWORKs recipients as it did for mental health and substance
11 abuse services.

12 (2) Among CalWORKs recipients, it is estimated that 50 to 60
13 percent have experienced domestic violence over their lifetimes,
14 and 20 to 30 percent of these recipients report being recent or
15 current victims of abuse.

16 (3) Because over one-half of CalWORKs recipients are or have
17 been victims of abuse, and because domestic violence is a threat
18 to safe and lasting marriages, a portion of the marriage promotion
19 moneys in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Fund
20 should be allocated to domestic violence prevention and early
21 intervention programs. These funds should be used to develop,



1 expand, or develop and expand programs appropriate for
2 CalWORKs recipients.

3 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to
4 promote the formation and maintenance of safe and healthy
5 marriages and families, by allocating a portion of the marriage
6 promotion moneys to existing programs that assist CalWORKs
7 recipients to receive necessary domestic violence services, thereby
8 enabling them to make the transition from welfare to work.

9 SEC. 2. Section 11495.50 is added to the Welfare and
10 Institutions Code, to read:

11 11495.50. (a) The department shall allocate not less than
12 ____ percent of the marriage promotion moneys in the Temporary
13 Assistance for Needy Families Fund to county welfare agencies to
14 carry out existing domestic violence services for CalWORKs
15 recipients, pursuant to Section 11495.1. The county welfare
16 agencies shall use these funds in a manner consistent with federal
17 guidelines to aid CalWORKs recipients who are domestic violence
18 victims.

19 (b) The department shall allocate funds, pursuant to
20 subdivision (a), consistent with the formula used to distribute each
21 county's CalWORKs program allocation.

22 (c) Each county shall use funds received pursuant to
23 subdivision (a) used to supplement, and not supplant, health care
24 treatment funds otherwise available to recipients and other funds
25 received for domestic violence services.

26 (d) Each county shall report annually to the Legislature the
27 number of CalWORKs program recipients who received domestic
28 violence services and the extent to which the allocation received
29 pursuant to subdivision (a) is sufficient to meet the need for these
30 services as determined by the county.

31 SEC. 3. Section 11495.60 is added to the Welfare and
32 Institutions Code, to read:

33 11495.60. (a) The department shall allocate not less than
34 ____ percent of the marriage promotion moneys in the
35 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Fund to the Office of
36 Women's Health in the State Department of Health Services for the
37 development and implementation of a public education campaign
38 to raise awareness about the health consequences of domestic
39 violence.

1 (b) The Office of Women’s Health, in collaboration with the
2 department, domestic violence advocacy organizations, and other
3 public health officials, shall issue guidelines for the development
4 and dissemination of the campaign required by subdivision (a),
5 and shall ensure that it is culturally relevant to the diverse
6 communities of the state.

7 (c) The campaign shall educate CalWORKs recipients and the
8 general public about the short- and long-term health impact of
9 abuse on victims and children exposed to domestic violence.

10 SEC. 4. Section 11495.70 is added to the Welfare and
11 Institutions Code, to read:

12 11495.70. The department shall implement the state option in
13 Section 402(a)(7) of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
14 Sec. 602(a)(7)) that provides that a state may certify standards and
15 procedures to ensure that the state screens for and identifies
16 domestic violence.

17 SEC. 5. (a) Sections 2 and 3 of this act shall be implemented
18 only to the extent that federal Temporary Assistance for Needy
19 Families Block Grant funds are available for marriage promotion
20 purposes.

21 (b) The State Department of Social Services shall seek any
22 federal approval for any state plan amendments necessary to
23 implement this act.

